

## A Summary of Rabies in Massachusetts, January to September 2007

### Massachusetts Department of Public Health

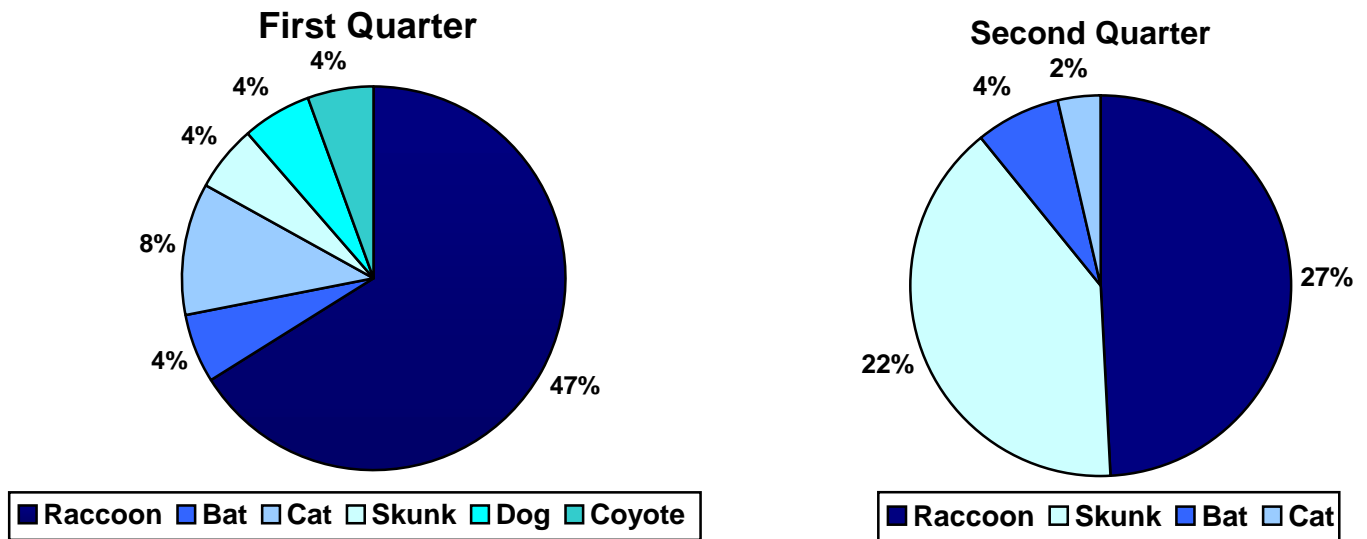
The following report summarizes data collected on animal specimens sent to the State Laboratory Institute for rabies testing from January to September 2007. Cumulative reports summarizing rabies testing from 1992-2002 and annual reports from 2003 to 2006 are available on the MDPH website at [www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/epii/rabies/rabies.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/epii/rabies/rabies.htm).

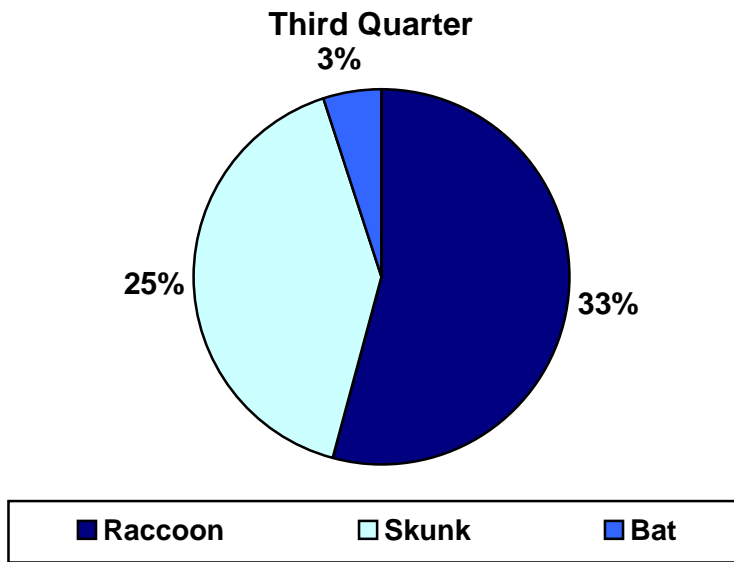
#### Submissions and Positive Results by Species

**Table 1**

Animal	Number Positive/Submitted (%) 1st Quarter	Number Positive/Submitted (%) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Number Positive/Submitted (%) 3rd Quarter	Number Positive/Submitted (%) 4th Quarter
Raccoon	17/36 (47%)	30/111 (27%)	15/46 (33%)	
Skunk	1/12 (8%)	6/27 (22%)	23/92 (25%)	
Bat	4/74 (5%)	8/203 (4%)	14/479 (3%)	
Cat	2/190 (1%)	4/222 (2%)	0/309	
Coyote	1/3 (33%)	0/3	0/4	
Dog	1/99 (1%)	0/85	0/131	
Other	0/43	5/91 (6%)	1/99 (1%)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26/457 (6%)</b>	<b>53/742 (7%)</b>	<b>53/1160 (5%)</b>	

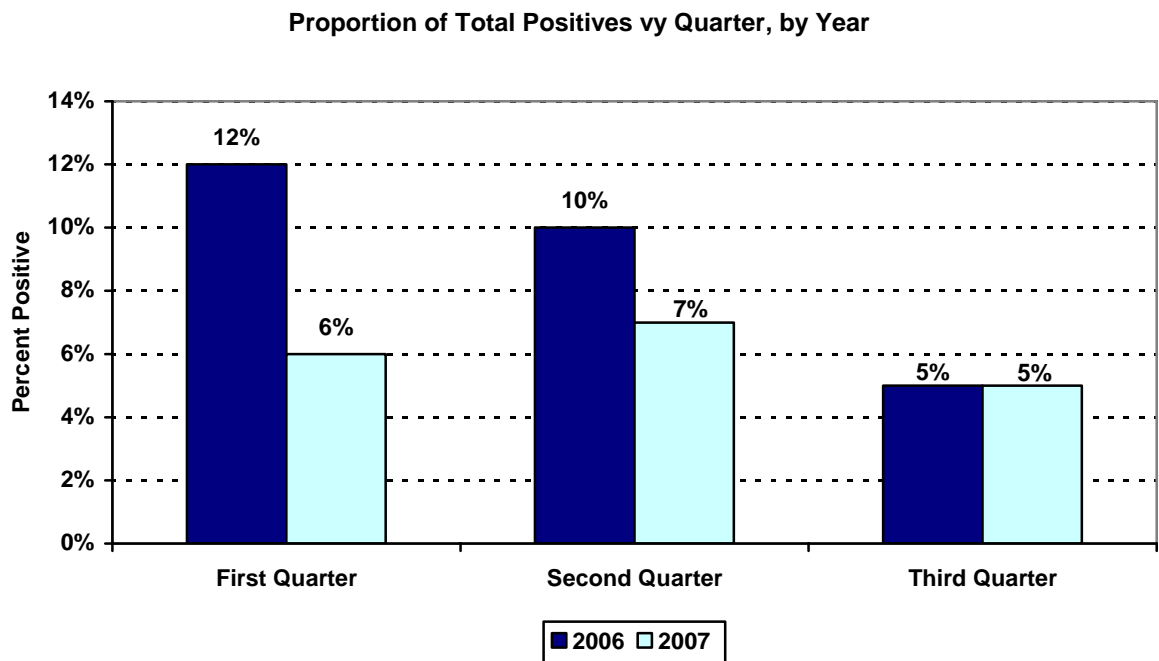
#### Proportion of Total Rabies Positives by Animal Species, by Quarter





### Cumulative Submissions and Positive Results by Month

Due to the seasonal nature of wild animal activity, changes in animal submission numbers fluctuate fairly predictably throughout the year. In general, higher numbers of animals are submitted during the summer with the lowest numbers of submissions during the winter. Table 2 shows the highest number of submissions occurred during the month of August in both 2006 and 2007 and significantly decreased in the month of September. The proportion of positive cases varies less predictably from month to month.



**Table 2**

Month	Number Submitted, 2006	Number Positive, 2006	Number Submitted, 2007	Number Positive, 2007
January	159	18 (11%)	144	6 (4%)
February	145	8 (6%)	144	6 (4%)
March	194	33 (17%)	169	14 (8%)
April	213	35 (16%)	148	--
May	235	22 (9%)	249	9 (4%)
June	317	16 (5%)	345	44 (13%)
July	328	14 (4%)	400	14 (4%)
August	573	25 (4%)	504	18 (4%)
September	252	18 (7%)	256	21 (8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2416</b>	<b>189 (8%)</b>	<b>2359</b>	<b>132 (6%)</b>

**Submissions and Positive Results by County**

From July through September, 2007, thirteen counties in Massachusetts submitted animals for rabies testing. The highest number of submissions came from Middlesex County, while Berkshire, Worcester and Essex counties had the highest proportion of positive animals.

<b>Table 4 Rabies Data by County</b>				
County	Number of Positive/Submitted Animals (%) 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Number of Positive/Submitted Animals (%) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Number of Positive/Submitted Animals (%) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Number of Positive/Submitted Animals (%) 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Barnstable	2/35 (6%)	1/46 (2%)	1/91 (1%)	
Berkshire	2/9 (22%)	3/13 (23%)	3/32 (9%)	
Bristol	1/30 (3%)	4/47 (9%)	2/84 (2%)	
Dukes	0/0	0/1	0/4	
Essex	4/58 (7%)	2/81 (2%)	9/120 (8%)	
Franklin	0/14	1/11 (9%)	0/27	
Hampden	1/29 (3%)	3/40 (8%)	3/54 (6%)	
Hampshire	2/12 (17%)	1/10 (10%)	1/16 (6%)	
Middlesex	3/106 (3%)	8/151 (5%)	11/244 (5%)	
Nantucket	0/0	0/1	0/0	
Norfolk	4/49 (8%)	4/92 (4%)	6/154 (4%)	
Plymouth	1/37 (3%)	5/65 (8%)	6/88 (3%)	
Suffolk	1/33 (3%)	4/82 (5%)	1/77 (1%)	
Worcester	4/49 (10%)	17/100 (17%)	13/159 (8%)	

Number of Submissions by County, Third Quarter 2007

